



**City of Livermore**  
**Mandatory Drought Conservation Measures**  
**Stage 2 Frequently Asked Questions**

Due to continuing uncertainties regarding water supplies, the Livermore City Council adopted an emergency ordinance on May 12, 2014, enacting Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures for ALL water users in Livermore. This includes both Livermore Municipal Water and California Water Service Company customers. The City offers these answers to frequently asked questions.

**1. *Why did the City Council take this action?***

The City of Livermore Municipal Water utility is the water retailer for approximately one-third of Livermore. The balance of Livermore is served by the California Water Service Company. On April 15, 2014, the City enacted Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures of the Livermore Municipal Water, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which affected only Livermore Municipal Water customers. In order to ensure equitable application of water conservation regulations across the entire city, to provide for greater consistency of conservation messaging, and to bolster the water conservation efforts of the Tri-Valley, the City adopted the emergency ordinance to implement regulations throughout Livermore.

**2. *How does this action affect me?***

The Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures now apply to all water users in Livermore. If water conservation targets are not achieved by early summer by all Tri-Valley water users, it is very possible that there will be insufficient water supplies remaining to provide any outdoor irrigation in late summer. It may also be necessary to enact more restrictive measures to ensure there is sufficient water available for firefighting and other public health, safety and welfare needs.

**3. *By how much do I need to reduce my water use?***

Your primary focus should be on cutting outdoor water use in half. Most of the water used is for outdoor purposes, and the majority of the mandatory conservation measures restrict outdoor water use. For example, one measure limits irrigation to an odd-even, no-more-than-two-days-a-week schedule. If you normally water 10 minutes four days a week and you have an odd street address number, you would water 10 minutes no more than two days a week on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, with no watering on Sundays. Although the landscape may turn brown under this watering schedule, it will still be alive when the next rains come. While the focus during Stage 2 is on cutting water used for outdoor purposes, you should continue to practice wise water habits to minimize indoor water use, such as turning off the water while brushing teeth, only running full loads of dishes and laundry, and taking shorter showers.

**4. How will the Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures help?**

With everyone's cooperation, we anticipate being able to achieve the water use reductions needed to make it through the warm summer months despite limited water supplies.

**5. *Why do I hear about the snowpack when I hear reports on the drought situation? What does snow in the Sierras have to do with Livermore's water supply?***

Much of the water supplied in the City of Livermore is purchased from Tri-Valley water wholesaler Zone 7 Water Agency, which imports more than 80 percent of the water used in the Tri-Valley from the State Water Project. A considerable portion of Livermore's water supply begins as snowmelt from the Sierras. California typically receives about half its precipitation in December, January and February, and much of that precipitation is snowfall in the Sierras. The snowpack stores water during the winter months. As the snow melts, the snowmelt is captured and stored in State Water Project reservoirs. The ability to store the snowmelt is a critical factor in having adequate water supplies throughout the year. Because of the persistent lack of snowpack, the California Department of Water Resources established an annual allocation of 0% of State Water Project contracted water supplies, which will be increased to just 5% beginning on September 1, 2014. In response, Zone 7 directed all Tri-Valley water retailers to reduce their annual water demand for 2014 by 25% from requested levels. This is a serious loss of water supply as local groundwater and surface water sources normally supply only about 20 percent of the Tri-Valley's water needs.

**6. *Can't we just pump more local groundwater to make up for the loss of imported State Water Project water?***

Groundwater, found in aquifers below the ground surface, isn't a limitless supply. If wells are pumped faster than the aquifer is replenished (recharged), the amount of groundwater in the aquifer is decreased. Without the imported water from the State Water Project, a significant large source of water used to recharge the local groundwater aquifers is lost.

**7. *If it rains, do I still need to worry about a drought?***

Yes. Even if it rains, we are still far from having enough water to end the drought. Water supplies are so critically low that it would have had to storm every other day through May for California to have anything resembling a normal year.

**8. *How can I obtain more information, and get other questions answered?***

- a. Visit the City of Livermore Water Resources Division webpage for information on the conservation measures, water conservation, and a link to the California Department of Water Resources' drought webpage. [www.cityoflivermore.net/drought.asp](http://www.cityoflivermore.net/drought.asp)
- b. See Livermore Municipal Code Chapter 13.26 Water Conservation and Chapter 13.27 Mandatory Drought Conservation Measures [www.codepublishing.com/CA/Livermore.html](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Livermore.html)
- c. Call the Drought Hotline at 960-8180.
- d. Livermore Municipal Water customers: send an email to [wrd\\_info@cityoflivermore.net](mailto:wrd_info@cityoflivermore.net) or call 960-8100.
- e. Cal Water customers: send an email to [infoLIV@calwater.com](mailto:infoLIV@calwater.com) or call 447-4900.